

# New England *Ecological Services Field Office in Connecticut*

## Represented by the following Members of Congress:

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Rep. Robert Simmons (R-2nd)  
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-3rd)  
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Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-5th)

## Contact

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Headquarters located in Concord, New Hampshire, with satellites in Sunderland, Massachusetts, Old Town, Maine and Charlestown, Rhode Island.

## Purpose

Field office staff work with landowners, private organizations, government agencies and other partners to conserve fish and wildlife resources in New England.

## Management Activities

- In partnership with other agencies and organizations, restore populations of plants and animals on the federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species.
- With public and private partners, develop ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate harmful effects of hydropower projects.

- Assess effects of contaminants on fish and wildlife resources, obtain compensation for and restore wildlife injured by contaminants, and resolve contaminant problems on existing and proposed Service lands.
- Carry out the Department of the Interior's responsibilities on oil and chemical spill response teams.
- In partnership with other agencies and conservation organizations, restore degraded habitat and remove barriers to fish passage.

## Highlights

Negotiations among Service biologists and engineers, state fisheries staff, and hydropower facility owners led to the construction of fish passage facilities at the Taftville and Occum dams on the Shetucket River. The fishways have opened over nine miles of spawning and nursery habitat for shad and herring.

The Service, state, municipalities and private entities are working to identify projects that will restore fish passage and riverine habitat through voluntary dam removal projects, culvert replacement and construction of fishways.

Service and state biologists documented additional occurrences of endangered dwarf wedgemussels in the Farmington River, making this the largest population in Connecticut. Conservation priorities will be identified this year in partnership with the state and the Farmington River Watershed Association.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**1 800/344 WILD**  
<http://www.fws.gov>

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*Dwarf wedgemussel*

USFWS

## Issues

Service biologists are working with state and federal highway authorities to minimize environmental impacts associated with realigning Route 11.

The Service will be working with the Army Corps of Engineers to finalize new operational regimes at their flood control dams in Connecticut. The result will be more stable water levels, more environmentally protective minimum flow releases, and more natural flows downstream from the projects.

The Service and state are developing plans to restore fish and wildlife resources injured by PCB releases in the Housatonic River.

Service biologists are coordinating with the state, Coast Guard and coastal towns to ensure that seasonal fireworks displays proceed without adversely impacting threatened piping plovers.

